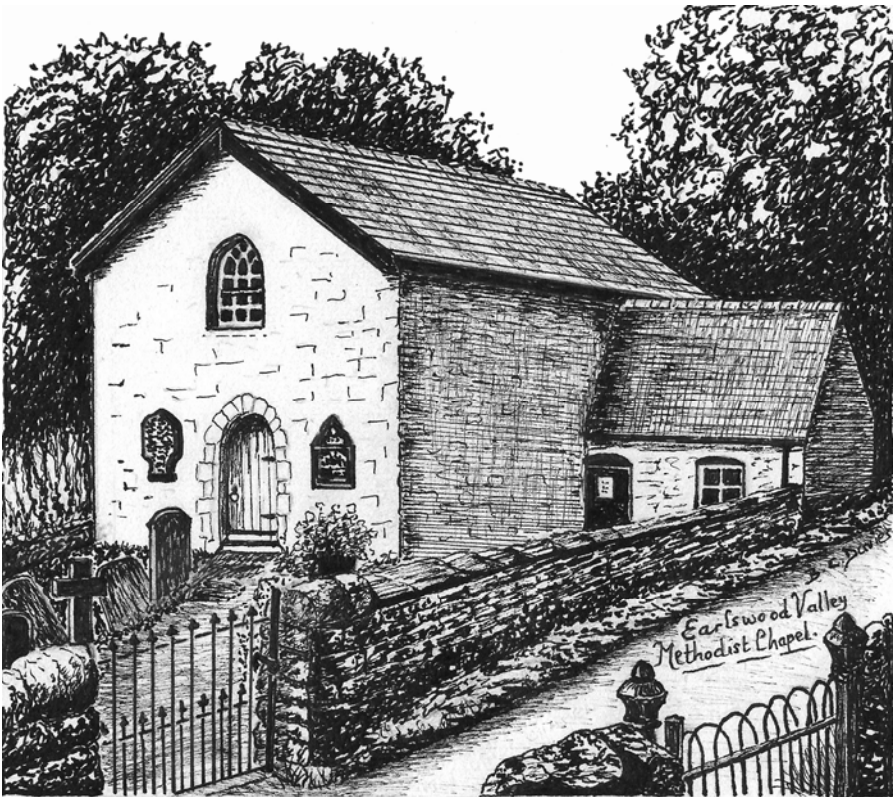


Shirenewton & Newchurch Parish Magazine October 2011



Sketch by Barbara Davies

Price: 50p

EARLSWOOD VALLEY METHODIST CHAPEL

An extract from the first chapter of the booklet
"Earlswood Valley Methodist Chapel 1791 – 1991"

Earlswood Valley Methodist Chapel has stood in the centre of Earlswood Valley for the past two hundred years. Some who have known it all their lives find it difficult to visualise the Valley without it. However, there must have been a time when the land on which Earlswood Valley Methodist Chapel was built was part of the adjoining meadow and there probably sheep and cattle grazed.

How then was it that this chapel was built?

There have been no houses built in Earlswood Valley for a very long time. Some of the cottages have fallen into ruin and only two of those remaining have not been modernised.

In one of those cottages, now just a pile of stones, lived a young woman called Ann Lewis, born in 1747 and who later in life through a second marriage became Ann Rosser. Across the water in the Horsefair area of Bristol the first Methodist Chapel in the world had been built. It was from there an Anglican priest, despondent with the apathy of his clerical brothers, was spreading the gospel throughout the length and breadth of the country, travelling on horseback and preaching in the open air. He was one John Wesley.

When the young Ann Lewis found he was to pay a visit to South Wales she was determined to hear him preach. He crossed the ferry to Black Rock and then reached Devauden Green on horseback. Ann was just one of three or four hundred who heard him preach there. She was so inspired by his preaching that she travelled many miles on foot including Abergavenny, Usk and Bristol to hear his message. At least John Wesley was sure he had one convert in the South Wales area for this young woman returned to Earlswood Valley, and with her husband, James, held prayer meetings in their little thatched cottage and founded a branch of the Methodist Missionary Society. She inspired so many people that soon the cottage became too small and Ann knew a chapel must be built. It is said she travelled far and wide to raise funds.

She visited every cottage in the area collecting money, and crossed many times on the ferry to speak with John Wesley and his associates in Bristol. On one occasion she returned with twenty pounds towards the building. Eventually there was sufficient money to purchase the plot of land. Most of the building work was done by local labour and there is a well known story which says much of the stone from the nearby quarry was carried by the women in their aprons.

One remarkable story is that of Nathaniel Watkins whom, it is said, was a notorious local character, a drunkard and always in some sort of trouble. Where others gave up Ann continued to encourage and endeavoured to show this character there was a better way of life. Imagine her joy when he became converted, actually preaching himself. He was actively involved with the building of the chapel and responsible for most of the stone masonry. He died on 12th April 1812 and his tomb stone can be seen in the burial ground beneath one of the windows.

Ann Lewis (Rosser) died in 1832.

EARLSWOOD HOPE CHAPEL

Harvest Festival on Sunday 2nd October at 3.00pm

Also on Monday 3rd October at 7.30 pm

All are Welcome

GAERLLWYD BAPTIST CHAPEL

Harvest Festival Service will be held on Sunday 16th of October at 6.30 pm

Monday 17th at 7.30 pm

Speaker Rev. Eddie Jones of Caerwent

Harvest supper after the Monday service.

All are Welcome. (Tickets are not required)

1ST SHIRENEWTON CUB PACK



"1st Shirenewton Cubs has started a new term with seven new leaders, Kotick, Raksha, Shere Khan, Kaa, Chil and Bagheera. We have a wonderful pack of cubs, some old and some new, as we have now merged the 'satellite' pack with the original Shirenewton pack. We were all very sad to say goodbye to Mike, Di and Geoff at the end of the summer term. They have done a truly wonderful job and set the benchmark very high for the new team!

We have begun the year learning about Afghanistan and the cubs are busy filling shoeboxes of goodies for the troupes. As part of this task the cubs played a game of 'war', which involved much shredding and flinging of newspaper. It was lots of fun but also helped the cubs to think about the effects of war and the problems left behind. This week we will be bringing in provisions for the shoeboxes and we are obviously very grateful to the parents for their support with this.

The rest of the term will see the cubs supporting the Remembrance Day Parade and then working on their Astronomers badge with a planned trip to Techniquet later in the month. We have also applied for some trees as part of the Jubilee celebrations hosted by the Woodland Trust. We have identified a local field, dedicated to the development and maintenance of woodlands (Trees in Trust). And we are delighted that they will support us by allowing the cubs on site to do the planting. Fingers crossed!

For more information see our website <http://shirenewtonscouts.jimdo.com/>

All the best in scouting

Kate, Graham, Kerry, Gareth, Sarah and Hazel"



200 CLUB OCTOBER RESULTS.

Many congratulations to the following winners.

| | | |
|--------|-----------------|-----|
| NO 53 | Leslie Arnold | £40 |
| No 26 | Jan Adams | £30 |
| No 135 | Sybil Cullimore | £20 |
| No 54 | Mrs M Grattan | £10 |

SHIRENEWTON WOMENS INSTITUTE

September 2011



September and the start of Autumn activities, for many dodging the weather to sort out our gardens and buy more bulbs. Our speaker, Mrs Maggie Hampshire, came to talk to us about the work of 'Send a Cow', an organisation that knows a lot about organic gardening. Mrs Hampshire told us how 'Send a Cow' was set up in the 70's by some Somerset farmers, with excess live stock, who literally sent cows to Africa so that a sustainable living could be provided for very poor communities. The work has grown and although people are still provided with cows and goats and chickens according to need, the animals are sourced in Africa. The needs of a group are assessed and help is given initially to the most needy, who are taught how to care for their animal and how to use everything to advantage especially the manure. Seeds and materials to make a keyhole or bag garden, how to use every bit of collected waste water to best advantage, and allow people to build a sustainable future for themselves and feed and educate their families. 'Send a Cow' doesn't give and go away, it helps for up to five years and makes sure help is always available. People who are helped go on to help others because they pass on offspring from their animals and seed from their plants so that their whole community in time benefits. 'Send a Cow' is funded by people like us donating regularly, becoming a friend, or instead of buying our friends and relations things they don't want giving them a virtual gift by donating on their behalf, enough to buy seeds or chickens or a goat or a cow or any of the other gifts listed in their catalogue. Mrs Hampshire showed us a short video of some of the people and groups, their gardens and animals. Such an amazing result from such limited resources. This is real long term help to really live.

Our October meeting will be a social evening, Thursday 13th 7:15 pm at the Rec Hall. Please remember to bring a baby/child photo of yourself and a shoe which belongs to you (in a bag so no one else can see it).

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING.

Police Report from Louise Thorpe, Chepstow Neighbourhood Policing Team.
If you feel that something is suspicious or obviously not right, please give the police a call on either 999, 101 or 01633 838111.

- Sun 14th August A suspicious vehicle and trailer were seen on one of the greens in Earlswood. It was thought that they might be connected with the transportation 'off road' bikes. The police will be making further enquiries to request that they refrain from visiting the area.
- Wed 17th There was a report of a party at the Ancient Burial Mounds in Wentwood (Were they drinking spirits? Ho ho ho.) Any way after hiking all the way up there, the police found nothing.
- Sat 20th There was a report of several cars driving across Shirenewton recreation fields but it was unknown who the cars belong to 'at this time.'
- Tues 23rd Scrap dealers in a white tipper truck visited the Earlswood. 'Please try and call at the time of the visit' said the police
- Fri 26th First there was a report of a party going on in an empty house (?) in Shirenewton. But the caller refused to re-attend the location (?) and the party was not discovered.
- Fri 26th Then there was a report of damage caused to an empty house in Shirenewton – believed to be caused by a party. Unfortunately, as the anonymous caller refused to show the police where the party was, they were unable to trace the offenders at the time of the event.
(‘Well, Watson, I’m suspecting that our mystery caller may have partaken of some intoxicating liquor’)
- Mon 29th A purple and silver malibu siren was found in Shirenewton. It was collected by police.
- Wed 7th Sept Lead flashing was stolen from the village hall – Earlswood
As you can see from the above list, reporting the events, 'at the time' gives the police a better opportunity to make enquiries. And to get to parties on time.

Planning

1. DC/2011/00714 Land off B4235 Shirenewton

Erection of an agricultural machinery and feed shed

I have written in my contemporaneous notes that the councillors had a discussion about hedges, dormice and dogs but I can't remember why. Anyway Approval was Recommended.

2. DC/2011/00752 Penyaemawr Field, Road from Gaer Llwyd to Wentwood
Agricultural Notification. Agricultural store.

Items of local concern

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebration on Monday 4th June, 2012. It has been suggested that in 2012, 2012 beacons should be lit on the day to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee and then all the beacon spots will be jotted down in a special Presentation Book for Her Majesty. Luckily, we don't actually need to purchase a beacon because we already have one on the Rec which was lit, I seem to remember on the night of the Millennium. Our clerk, Carole also suggested a nice idea, to provide a commemorative item for the children in the village for example, a mug or a coin. It was also noted that there had been various people within the village who were thinking about a joint party – although I should imagine the Queen has pretty much got hers organised. Hope someone lets the police know in plenty of time. Anyway, a working party will meet to discuss the party
The council received two invitations to attend the Best Kept Village Presentation Evening on Friday 9th September which once again was held at The Chepstow Garden Centre. But I've subsequently heard that despite all the hard work way back in May and June, we didn't win a bean. Shame.

Cllr Eickhoff gave an update on the 'Village Shop' It was with brief-ish version of what has been a protracted effort to get in touch with the owners of the Tan House. As it happens, the telephone number on the sign outside the pub is incorrect and the very nice Japanese gentlemen whose number it is has become increasingly tetchy with the number of people who have left messages asking about the status of a defunct pub in Wales. A group of interested people within the community are keen to try to reopen the village shop and Cllr Eickhoff will be meeting with them on Wed 28th September. He will report back to the council in October Oh, and the members of the council were keen to note with grateful thanks Alan Jones who has kept the grass cut around the pub and has kept the place looking tidy.

Continued on Page 8

Continued from Page 7

It said on the Agenda 'To determine response, if any, to Defra consultation document on the registration of Village Greens (details e mailed to all Cllrs on 31st August)' Do you know, I don't think I spotted a single response, of any kind. I sat there, in the gathering gloom, waiting patiently to record the council's deliberations. The weighty silences from the cllrs continued. I wondered... were they digesting the suggestions or was I in a time warp where time had ceased altogether? I don't remember what the outcome was so if you are desperate to know what happened next, you'll have to look up the minutes which will be posted on the village notice boards or posted on the church website.

There is going to be a Curry Evening hosted by the MoD on Thursday 17th November to which members of Caerwent and Shirenewton Councils have been invited. Sounds... explosive.

Cllr Leaf is going to re-visit the local organizations to confirm contact names and details.

Cllr Down has tried to find out more details of what was happening to the planning application up at Wentwood Mill, Earlswood but the MCC person dealing with this is on maternity leave.

Cllr Down once again, has offered to provide daffodils for the villages – and his kind offer was gratefully accepted. These bulbs will be distributed to the cllrs to plant along the waysides, footpaths and verges.

The North Face of the Church War Memorial Clock has been immobile for many months. It will cost about £1800 to repair. The inside workings of the clock have regular maintenance but it's more difficult to deal with the outside because it's probably against H&S to hang upside down from the belfry window to give the hands and face a shot of WD40 (not botox)

The Cwm Road and Earlswood Road are full of potholes. The clerk will inform Highways.

Next meeting will take place on Monday 3rd October at 7.30 at Shirenewton Recreation Hall

Chepstow Choral Society

MUSICAL DIRECTOR: GRAHAM BULL



FORTHCOMING CONCERTS

On **SATURDAY OCTOBER 29th 2011** CCS will be taking part in a joint performance with Pontypridd and Cowbridge Choral Societies of the truly stunning choral and orchestral masterpiece by **Guiseppe Verdi – the “Verdi Requiem”**, as it is almost universally referred to in choral music circles. The Rhondda Symphony Orchestra and four outstanding soloists will join us and the performance will take place at Rhondda Fach Sports Centre in Tylorstown. The performance is part of the “Voices for Hospice” series, with proceeds going to Ty Hafan. Plans are already under way to assist anyone from Chepstow who would like to travel to hear what will be a wonderful occasion for our choir – this magnificent work is a massive undertaking for any choral society, requiring large choral and orchestral resources, and we are all delighted to have the opportunity to be participants for such a worthy event. Please contact choir officials for more information, and watch for press announcements.

Other concerts already planned:

SUNDAY DECEMBER 11th :

Christmas Music & Carols, St Mary's Church, Chepstow, 3.00pm

SATURDAY MARCH 24th 2012:

J.S. Bach's “St John Passion”, St Mary's Church Chepstow.

JUNE 30th 2012 :

“A Summer Celebration”, St Mary's Church, Chepstow
With the Rhondda Symphony Orchestra

For further information about any of the above, please tel. (01291) 623310, 620414, 424725. The Society welcomes new members. If you enjoy singing, please contact Marjorie Duerden (tel.623310) about singing membership. **NEW MEMBERS ARE INVITED & MOST WELCOME – COME & KEEP YOUR LOCAL SOCIETY SINGING!! WE CANNOT SURVIVE WITHOUT YOU!!** Rehearsals take place on Wednesday evenings at Chepstow Leisure Centre, 7.30pm, during term time, and commence for the 2012/2013 season on **WEDNESDAY AUGUST 24th**, 7.30pm, Chepstow Leisure Centre
CCS is affiliated to Ty Cerdd - Music Centre Wales, and is also a registered charity (1127098). Tickets (£10) for our concerts are available from **CHEPSTOW BOOKSHOP**, on the door, via any members, or by contacting the above telephone numbers.

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH WEBSITE

The nights are drawing in so many people are curled up in front of a warm laptop screen surfing and buying – I hope through the Church website.

So, let's bring you up-to-date with the website stats. Income year to date (late September) is £967.12. This, as always, is cash paid into the church bank account. This is about £300 down on this time last year. Still it's better than nothing!

Year to date the main website (excluding shop) has had 2,353 visits viewing 7,678 pages which is an average of 3.26 pages per visit. About 35% are direct visits which means that people have the page on their favourites or type it into the browser directly – they don't go through a search engine or click on a link. 41% come from Google searching. The remainder come from various referral links and BT, Microsoft (Bing) and Yahoo searches. We have had visitors from 40 countries the top ten being, UK, USA, Russia, Brazil, Canada, Australia, India, South Africa, Ireland and Malaysia. The UK accounts for 88% of the visits.

The shopping portal has served 2,793 pages in September and currently has 262 shops in 34 categories on it. It's not really possible (without a fair amount of work) to tell which shops generate the most revenue. Amazon is a good steady revenue stream but is mainly low value items so the sums involved aren't huge. To give you an idea, through the Amazon links on the website, a total of £2,623 has been ordered from Amazon this year to date generating £105 in commission. On TradeDoubler (one of the ~8 agent sites I use) we currently have an account balance of £73 with this coming from commission on sales via Expedia, Tesco Wines, Holiday Autos and TheTrainLine. Last month we generated commission of £97 from BA, Ink Factory, Music Room, Tesco, eBookers, and TheTrainLine . TradeDoubler is our most productive agent with commission this year at £454 (not including the £73 previously mentioned).

So what else is new. Not a lot really. I keep adding/removing shops as they come and go and we keep earning. As you start to think about booking winter travel and even, dare I mention it, Christmas remember that there most of your favourite shops are available by the church shopping portal. You still have access to all special offers, etc. It doesn't cost you anything and we get the commission!

Safe Browsing

David Cornwell
Webmaster.

This is Glynis calling...
(to CDs)
**"Come to the Earlswood Hall Barn
Dance!"**



Saturday 8th October 7.30

Good fun for all the family!

Tickets (in advance because of the food arrangements):

£7.50, children £5.00

Family £22.00

Ticket includes: Dancing, Soup, a Ploughman's Platter
and Chocolate Brownies!

There will be a pay bar and a raffle

For tickets/info contact:

Glynis on 641 818 glynis.macdonald@btinternet.com

Christine on 641 616 chris@earlswoodmarketing.com

This is a fund raiser for Earlswood Hall

SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 1090167

We start our new year after our brake for the summer with a new programme of speakers:

Tuesday, 25th October

Meeting at the Huntsman Hotel at 7.00 pm

A talk given by John Harvey

Entitled: 'T.A. Walker his life and Achievements'

(He was instrumental in building the Severn Tunnel)

Tuesday, 29th November

Meeting at the Huntsman Hotel at 7.30 pm

A talk given by Godfrey Brangham

Entitled: 'Hanging & Hangmen at Usk Prison'

Tuesday, 13th December

A visit to Mathern Church

With a talk and tour of the church

Afterwards tea & mince pies

We will still be meeting on the second Monday of the month at the Recreational Hall, Shirenewton at 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm, this is a drop-in session where you can browse through our collection of photographs, maps & old documents. Everyone welcome.

EARLSWOOD AND NEWCHURCH WEST MEMORIAL HALL

Remembrance Service Sunday 13th November at 10:30 am

Everyone Welcome

STARGAZING IN SEPTEMBER

The very bright planet Jupiter can be seen to the east in the evening sky. The star cluster called the Pleiades is to the left of the planet. On the 12th the Full Moon is to the upper right of Jupiter. The slightly orange planet Mars can be seen in the early morning sky to the East. It is to the right of the reversed question mark of stars which forms the head of the constellation of Leo the Lion. The crescent Moon is directly below Mars on the 22nd.

The constellation of Cygnus the Swan lies pretty much directly above. It is in the shape of a cross – in fact it is sometimes called the Northern Cross. According to legend, Jupiter the king of the Gods changed himself into a swan when he wanted to visit Leda, the wife of the King of Sparta. In memory of the episode, he placed a swan in the sky.

The seven stars of the Plough are to the North and the four stars forming the Great Square of Pegasus lie to the South.

Edward Lowe, a Victorian gentleman-scientist lived at Shirenewton Hall from 1880 until his death in 1900. Although renowned for his contributions to botany, in particular ferns, he was also interested in astronomy. In particular he studied the “haloes” that sometimes form around the Moon, and sun-spots. His memorial plaque in Shirenewton Church records his wide interests – he was a Fellow of the Royal Society, the Royal Astronomical Society, the Meteorological Society and the Linnaean Society.

Dave Thomas

TREDEGAR ARMS SHIRENEWTON

Shirenewton Community Luncheon Club

Please book early to secure your place for lunch on Wednesday

October 26th

November 23rd

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Liz O'Brien on 07831 740909, or email lizobr@googlemail.com

TRIBUTE TO BERNICE BOWEN

A warm and affectionate tribute is due to Bernice who died suddenly in July. Her funeral was an indication of the large place she filled in the hearts of many in our village. She possessed a generous, kind and caring nature. Her coffee mornings were always well attended, she also gave a warm welcome to anyone who called to see her and who stayed long enough to enjoy a cup of tea and of course her welsh cakes. For many years she delivered this magazine, at times when she was not really well enough to do so until in recent years her failing strength obliged her to give it up.

Bernice will be greatly missed by many in our village
Mary Follett

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH FETE

Would you be interested in joining the Fete committee?

We are a friendly bunch but desperately need new members with fresh ideas.

Our first planning meeting for the 2012 Fete is at the Church Hall on October 20th at 8.00 pm. So why not come along

Diane Ward Fete Co-ordinator

QUIZ & FESTIVE SOCIAL EVENING

Shirenewton Recreation Hall

On Friday November 25th

Doors open 7.30 pm

Quiz begins at 8.00 pm

£2 per person

Maximum number per team 6

Alcoholic & Soft Drinks available

Proceeds in aid of Shirenewton Recreation Association

Fundraising Activities

MOTHERS UNION



On September 14th our speaker was an Army Welfare Officer, Colour Sergeant Steve Morgan from Beachley Barracks. He gave us some valuable insights into the life experiences of army families, the soldiers as dads, their wives and children.

Mothers' Union will meet at 11am Wednesday morning 12th October, in Shirenewton church room, for coffee followed by a cookery demonstration. You can be sure of unusual and delicious dishes made from ordinary garden fruit and veg and what's more, we all join in the feast and feel inspired to try exciting cooking! In between whiles we will be inspired by some of the ideas and information shared from the MU magazine "Families First".

You don't have to be a member, anyone can come. Welcome.

Rosemary Carey Tel 425 010

Monday 3 October. MU Sharing Day on Africa 10 am. to 3 pm. St Paul's Church, Newport

Monday 17 October. MU Quiet Afternoon at St Hilda's Griffithstown

Special Event in October:- Saturday 15th. Monmouth Diocese celebrates 90 years and there will be a Diocesan MU stall. The venue is the Caerleon Campus of the University of Newport . Parishes are encouraged to come in large numbers and there will be facilities for children during the main events

WHIST DRIVES

34 players attended the Drive on the 1st September in spite of the wet weather and we look forward to another good attendance in October when we meet on the 6th. New players are always made welcome, please join us; our Table fee is £1. per person which includes light refreshments. We also have a Raffle that raises funds for the upkeep of the Hall. In November we will meet on the 3rd and our Seasonal Special will be on the 1st December. All our Drives are at the Recreation Hall starting promptly at 7.30 p.m.

Auriol Horton. 01291 641844

Come and join...



SHIRENEWTON GAMING GROUP

**Do you enjoy playing games?
We do!**

We are a friendly, informal group with ages ranging from 13 to 48. We enjoy playing tactical & strategic games of all sorts - tabletop miniatures' games, board games & everything in between.



We meet on Sundays in Shirenewton Church Hall

If you want to join us, or have a game you want to play and are looking for partners/opponents, get in touch...

Contact Paul Owen on 01291 641483

or by email at dqgm@ppstudio.co.uk for more information.

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Are you thinking of taking a few lessons for your holidays? Do you need to improve your skills as a Spanish speaker?

I'm a native-Spanish speaker, with an excellent pronunciation and grammar. If you are interested in learning a new language for business or leisure purposes, just call or drop me an e-mail.

Translation services and rates vary depending on the extension and nature of the text. I guarantee professional reliable service, flexible prices and confidentiality.

I am available in the day time and early evenings during the week. The place will be agreed on together to suit both parties. Please feel free to contact me for further details.

Paty Davies

Tel: 01291 641553

Mobile: 07807103901

email: lucy_24@hotmail.com



Monmouth & District Bumps and Babes



Every other month parents and mothers to be get together at another parent's house in Monmouthshire. It is an opportunity to build relationships, make friends and extend a support network. Parents volunteer to host this event and it is often the first step to helping to support other parents. Mailing list: monmouthnct@fastmail.net

We also have an informal Bumps and Babes in Chepstow - we try to get together every month in parents' houses or a child friendly place locally such as Whirlikidz. Email us directly on nctmonmouthnewsletter@yahoo.co.uk to find out more. You do not have to be an NCT member to attend Bumps and Babes.



Monmouth & District NCT

Bridges Community Centre,
Drybridge Park, Monmouth, NP25 5AS.

October 15th 2011

10.00am - 12 noon

Admission £1 (in aid of NCT Charity)
Early 9.30am admission for NCT members
(with membership card)

**Items for sale: toys, books, nursery equipment,
baby & children's clothing, maternity wear & much more!**
Hundreds of quality items at a fraction of the cost of buying them new.

NEW: NOW SELLING TO AGE 12!

For more details about the sale, becoming a seller or
volunteering: sale@monmouthnct.fastmail.net
Tel: 0844 243 6212. Facebook 'Monmouth and District NCT'
Deadline for applying for your seller's number: 30th September 2011.

www.monmouthshire-nct.org

Monmouth and District Branch NCT. Registered Charity 803185



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statement open doors to
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Email: enquiries@getmein.org.uk

Nerys's Natty Nosh



If you went to this year's agricultural show at Chepstow and visited the home craft tent you might have noticed that Shirenewton WI won first prize for- *An afternoon tea for two*, and picked up the Homecraft Shield. The entry was prepared by Janet Horton, Diane Ward and myself.

This is the *menu* we chose ;-

Salmon and Herbed Cream Sandwiches

Savoury Scones

Sweetheart Biscuits

Vanilla and Buttercream Cup cakes

Savoury Scones

Ingredients

- 2 cups self raising flour
- 1 cup mature cheese, grated
- 1 small carrot, grated
- 2 tablespoon finely grated onion
- 2 tablespoon parsley, finely chopped
- 1 egg, beaten
- 2-3 tablespoon sour cream

Garnish

- cream cheese
- crispy bacon, ground
- thinly sliced, radish (optional)

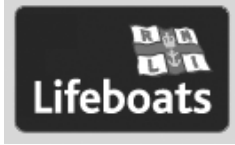
Method

- 1 Pre heat the oven - 180C, 350F Gas mark 4
- 2 Mix all the dry ingredients with the flour.
- 3 Add the egg and **gradually** add the sour cream taking care not to make the mixture sticky.
- 4 If the dough is too sticky add a little flour, if too dry add a little more sour cream.
- 5 Knead gently on a lightly floured surface.
- 6 Cut into rounds, place on a greased baking tray and brush with egg wash.
- 7 Bake for 20 - 25 minutes until golden brown.
- 8 When cold garnish with cream cheese, ground crispy bacon and radish or your choice of topping.

Tips

1cup is 200 grms or 8 oz.

Alternatively make canapés with the scone mixture, using a small cutter, and when cold garnish with either tomato, gherkin, cucumber, chopped egg, prawns or olives. You could use the base for making a large pizza, simply place tomato puree, grated cheese and bacon (optional) on top . **Enjoy!**



Chepstow Male Voice Choir

Will be giving a concert on behalf of the
Royal National Lifeboat Institution

on

Friday 14th October 2011

at

St Thomas à Becket Church Shirenewton

7.00pm for 7.30

All proceeds to the RNLI

Refreshments will be available during the interval.

Tickets may be obtained from

Mr Brian Robinson 01291 641539

Mrs Sally Saysell 01291 6541369

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Supported by The Arts Council for Wales

In July on my way to Southampton to go on a cruise, I visited the Church of St Nicholas in Bishop Sutton in Hampshire. My purpose was to continue my research into the early life of the late Dr William Howley, (born in Ropley, Archbishop of Canterbury 1828-1848), whose father was vicar at this Church along with St Peters in the neighbouring village of Ropley. I was taken by the memorial stone on the west wall of this delightful Church, which was on the Pilgrims Way from Winchester to Canterbury.

Sadly today we do not see such wonderful epithaphs written in the memory of a surgeon or the 'best of husbands'! It is quoted verbatim in the old english style.

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and afterwards with the Dropfy.

He died prematurely on the 8th day of March 1709

and in the 43rd year of his age.

His afflicted Wife erected this

Monument to the Best of Hufbands.

GARDENING CORNER

After nearly 18 years writing this page I have to admit messing up for the first time. Given a month off for good behaviour, I inadvertently decided to take two! So my apologies to the one or two which look forward to reading the page each month. I have been suitably admonished by at least one loyal reader that I know of. I blame the assistant head gardener, who has for a change, been cracking the whip on me. DIY has taken priority and as we all know, men can't multi-task – at least that is my excuse.

So now well and truly back in 'the groove,' I have to try and make up for lost time. It has been a bad year in the garden overall. Life has been a struggle and the rewards have been varied to say the least. Some crops in the vegetable patch have been a complete disaster. The carrots and parsnips never even got started as the very dry spring took its toll. Greens and potatoes were OK but I did lose one very good crop of Brussels sprouts. These started off very well, and a week or so of watering in got them really settled in. After a few weeks they started to look decidedly unhealthy. I suspected that they had been attacked by cabbage root fly. I started to water again as greens attacked by this particular pest can send out new roots and will often recover. This didn't happen, and on pulling one out of the ground to have a look, it became immediately clear that they had succumbed to club root, a particularly nasty fungus that stays active in the ground for at least fifteen years. I never understand where this has come from, given that this garden is quite isolated from others around. It can be spread on spades etc, so I need to be extra vigilant from now on to make sure that we don't spread it throughout the vegetable area. There are some resistant varieties of greens being bred these days, so I may try one or two of these varieties for next year, just to see how they do. I have only tried one such specially bred plant to date, and that is main crop potato. This has been bred to be blight resistant and was developed from looking at resistant varieties from South America. The success of these has been stunning. I dug this crop up last weekend, but despite the bad weather we have had all summer, they remained blight resistant almost to the very end. They are so vigorous and the cropping is excellent. They have now produced some early and also second early varieties, which I am determined to try next year.

Onion crops and also beans (of all the various varieties) have performed particularly well. I grow main crop onions and shallots, but I have changed the way that I grow some of these now. Onions I always used to plant in autumn using special sets. However the last couple of hard winters have taken their toll and the resultant spring has left many gaps. So this year I decided to go back to planting the sets out in spring. The results have been quite spectacular, with many onions weighing as much as a pound, so needless to say I won't be going back to autumn sowing again. Garlic this year did well, but then these do need a period of cold weather. There were minimal losses, and when harvested, there was a very good crop. I had started off with new 'seed' last year, but some of the bulbs are such a good size, that I have decided to keep three bulbs of each variety, to use as

seed for the coming season. I have already dug the bed up and incorporated ample amounts of manure. I used the bed that had the main crop potatoes in, so the soil in this has been well worked over the summer. The soil will be left to rest for the next month, and hopefully we will have some decent weather that will allow planting towards the end of October. The shallots performed OK, but the French cooking varieties didn't bulk up as much as I had anticipated. This year's crop has been dug up for some time and is currently drying in the small greenhouse. The varieties for pickling will be sorted out in the next week or two. We have just one pot left from last year, so the timing of these will be just about right! The shallots were planted in March, although traditionally they should be planted on the shortest day (just before Christmas). As the ground was frozen solid at the time this was impossible, and I'm pleased that I left the bulbs in the relative warmth of the garage.

The last few weeks has seen us harvesting and processing many of our crops. This started a couple of months ago with nectarines. We had such a good crop this year with many finding their way into the freezer having been poached. So some nice puddings to come. The rest formed the basis of chutney, although the assistant has decided that the one recipe will not be repeated. The DIY mentioned earlier, involved extensive work in the kitchen. To her consternation the recipe involving turmeric, decided that it would splatter everywhere, like a volcano going off every time it was stirred or turned over! You just would not believe how far a bright yellow splatter could actually splat! It was on the floor, up the wall, across the ceiling and down the other side. Having just painted the said wall and ceiling, needless to say I wasn't that impressed!

The large cooking tomatoes have been suitably mixed with onion, garlic and various spices and made into several batches of pasata sauce (for making pasta dishes etc.). These have also been frozen. Last year we made several lots of tomato soup, but we still have plenty left, so decided that we didn't need to make any more. Talking of last year's preserving exercises, we emptied the last jars from our damson and sloe gin last night. The fruits had been used to produce the gin, which was bottled before last Christmas (and I have to admit, almost completely devoured now). The bottles were then filled with rich sherry, and the fruits have been gently soaking ever since. So we decanted the sherry off last night and bottled this up, some of the damsons were then used to make a 'summer pudding', with the remainder going into the freezer. The latter will join several batches of pears, which have been poached in mulled red wine and also frozen for use over the coming months. By now some of you will not a 'booze theme' creeping in here! The assistant assures me that these stores have got to last for the next year, so will need rationing out – yeh whatever! We have had so much fruit, especially apples and pears, this year that we are now struggling to know what to do with them all. Unfortunately the winds recently has meant that many have landed on the floor, but we have tried to utilise as much of this crop as we can. Talking of which I need to get picking. Happy gardening until next month.

Steve Hunt.

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| | David Heritage | Newchurch 01291 622708 |
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| Maintenance & Safety | John Nicholas | 01291 641368 |
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| | Kath Whittington | 01291 641600 |
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| Tower Captain | Mike Penny | 01291 650653 |
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| | Sally Saysell | 01291 641369 |
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DIARY DATES

For further details see inside the magazine

| Oct | Event | Location |
|-----|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 | Poems, Magic and Supper | Devauden Village Hall |
| 2 | Earlswood Hope Harvest festival | Earlswood Hope Chapel |
| 3 | Earlswood Hope Harvest festival | Earlswood Hope Chapel |
| 3 | Mothers Union Sharing Day | St Pauls Church Newport |
| 3 | Shirenewton Community Council Mtg | Recreation Hall |
| 6 | Whist Drive | Recreation Hall |
| 8 | Earlswood Hall Barn Dance | Earlswood Hall |
| 12 | Mothers Union | Church Hall |
| 13 | Shirenewton Womens Institute | Recreation Hall |
| 15 | Monmouth & District ntc sale | Bridges Community Centre |
| 15 | Mothers Union | Caerleon Campus University Newport |
| 16 | Gaerllwyd Baptist Harvest Festival | Gaerllwyd Baptist Chapel |
| 17 | Gaerllwyd Baptist Harvest Festival | Gaerllwyd Baptist Chapel |
| 17 | Mothers Union Quit Afternoon | St Hilda's Griffithstown |
| 20 | Shirenewton Church Fete Meeting | Church Hall |
| 25 | Shirenewton Historical Society | Huntsman |
| | | |
| Nov | Event | Location |
| 3 | Whist Drive | Recreation Hall |
| 13 | Remembrance Day Service | Earlswood Hall |
| 18 | The Shoeshine an Drama | Itton Village Hall |
| 25 | Quiz & Festive Social Evening | Recreation Hall |
| 29 | Shirenewton Historical Sopciety | Huntsman |
| | | |
| Dec | Event | Location |
| 1 | Whist Drive | Recreation Hall |
| 13 | Shirenewton Historical Society | Mathern Church |

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH - READERS AND SIDES-PERSONS

| Oct | Service | Reader | Sides-Person |
|------------|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2 | Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity Holy Eucharist | Bill and Janet Clarke | Bill and Janet Clarke |
| 9 | 16th Sunday after Trinity Holy Eucharist | Bob Gratton Mike Peirce | Bob Gratton Mike Peirce |
| 16 | 17th Sunday after Trinity Holy Eucharist | James Leney Kevin Bounds | Kevin Bounds |
| 23 | Last Sunday after Trinity Holy Eucharist | Andrew Baker Cynthia Smith | Claire Lewis Cynthia Smith |
| 30 | 4th Sunday before Advent Holy Eucharist | John Nicholas Auriol Horton | Allan Saysell Auriol Horton |
| Nov | Service | Reader | Sides-Person |
| 6 | 3rd Sunday before Advent Holy Eucharist | Margaret Lock Annabel Hancock | Margaret Lock Annabel Hancock |
| 13 | 2nd Sunday before Advent Remembrance Sunday | The Children | The Children |
| 20 | Christ the King Mattins | Diane Marlow Mark Broughton | Diane Marlow Mark Broughton |
| 27 | 1st Sunday of Advent Holy Eucharist | Bill Clarke Janet Horton | Bill Clarke Janet Horton |

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The views expressed are those of the contributor.

**Deadline for contributions to the November issue
is the 24th October**